

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An air conditioner comprising an outdoor unit and an indoor unit provided with an indoor heat exchanger and an indoor expansion device,  
5 wherein the outdoor unit comprises a compressor for compressing a refrigerant, an outdoor heat exchanger for heat-exchanging a refrigerant, a four-way valve adjacently arranged to the compressor for circulating a refrigerant discharged from the compressor according to a heating cycle or a cooling cycle, and a refrigerant detouring path for detouring a refrigerant discharged from the  
10 outdoor heat exchanger to the compressor at the time of a defrosting operation, thereby performing the defrosting operation without stopping the heating cycle and thus preventing an indoor heating loss.